

Please amend the captioned application as follows:

Amendments

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/423,783 filed November 12, 1999 which is the U.S. National Stage of PCT Application PCT/EP97/05251, filed September 24, 1997 which claims the benefit of the filing date of the U.S. Non-Provisional Application No. 08/719,806, filed September 25, 1996. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/795,292 filed January 14, 1999 (converted to a U.S. Non-Provisional Application from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/115,920, filed January 14, 1999) which claims priority to PCT Application PCT/EP97/05251, filed September 24, 1997 which claims the benefit of the filing date of the U.S. Non-Provisional Application No. 08/719,806, filed September 25, 1996. The contents of each application are incorporated herein by reference.

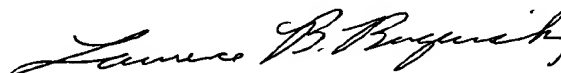
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following paragraph:

This invention was made with made with U.S. government support under N.I.H. Grant Nos. HL 54352 and EY 11431 from the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment set out above be entered into the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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